

Session 13-03 a Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Sarno at 6:00 p.m. on March 12, 2013 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONER KRISINTU, MAXWELL, ROSS, SARNO, SCHMITT, WAGNER

ABSENT: FAULKNER

STAFF: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR KOESTER
PLANNING TECHNICIAN ENGBRETSSEN
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 13, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented by consensus of the Commission.

VISITORS

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Follow up on January 10, 2013 EDC Worksession on Marketing Homer to High Tech Entrepreneurs

Community & Economic Development Coordinator Koester reviewed her staff report and asked the commission for feedback in defining the group that they want to reach out to and ways to reach out to the work from home businesses. In their review of the draft survey they discussed goals and their target audience.

Comments included:

- Some goals are to identify and learn about entrepreneurs, encourage growth, and attract others.
- Outreach could include a newspaper blurb, posting on the city and chamber websites, posters, KBBI community calendar, and etc.

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- It could be more successful to email individuals and ask if they would help with our project and fill out the survey.
- Artists make up a large group of business owners, and including that category will pick up a lot of people.
- Another goal is to help find ways to serve this population's needs.
- There are two tiers of businesses, those just starting out and people who have been in business for years.
- One way to define it could be those whose products are going out over the web versus only being sold locally.
- Ask about challenges business owners have, list some options like access to capital and specialized education, and leave a space to fill in.
- Ask about general qualities are important to a business owner. Mobile businesses can go anywhere so what is important, band width or glaciers?
- Needs will vary between businesses that offer tangible items and businesses that offer a service.
- A definition of the focus group could be those whose primary service is going out through the internet.

Mrs. Koester said she would work through the information they discussed and bring back a new draft at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memorandum from Planning Technician Engebretsen Re: Zoning Code and Zoning Map changes on the Homer Spit

Planning Technician Engebretsen provided an overview of the proposed changes to the zoning on the Homer Spit that the Planning Commission has been working on. The goal of the amendments is to better separate what is industrial and what is commercial. Marine industrial uses will stay clustered in proximity to the ice plant. Going up the spit from the ice plant there will be a better mixture of commercial uses. It also includes changes to allow overnight accommodations in accordance with certain health and safety requirements specific to whether it is for an owner, employee, or overnight rental to the public.

There was brief discussion about the draft, and no recommendations were proposed.

B. Memorandum from Planning Technician Engebretsen Re: Spit Trail Construction

Planning Technician Engebretsen reviewed the plans for the spit trail improvements.

The Commission commented favorable about the overall concept and no recommendations were proposed.

C. Land Allocation Plan

a. Memorandum from Planning Technician Engebretsen

The commission reviewed the land allocation plan and agreed by consensus that the area known as End of the Road Park be designated as park.

Concern was expressed about protecting our water shed against fracking with the increased need for natural gas.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Resolution 13-021 Re: Temporary Day Use Parking
- B. Certificate of Appointment for Merry Maxwell

It was suggested that the strip below Pioneer Avenue near Alice's would be an area to consider for day use parking if the RV parking program works.

Commissioner Maxwell introduced herself to the Commission.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There were no audience comments.

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

Community and Economic Development Coordinator Koester said she would have a Council meeting schedule at their next meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Sarno thanked staff for their work. She is pleased with this group and what they accomplish.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Maxwell thanked everyone for the opportunity to participate, this seems like a great group and it's exciting to be involved in planning Homer.

Commissioner Schmitt said this was a good opportunity to look at the city's land and brainstorm what can be done.

Commissioner Wagner agrees with the opportunity for the review and welcomed Merry to the Commission.

Commissioner Ross welcomed Merry and said he looks forward to working with her and thanked Katie and Julie.

Commissioner Krisintu echoed the others comments.

Student Representative Davis agreed with the other comments tonight.

ADJOURN

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There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____